

We claim:

1. A method for processing calls in a voice over packet system, the system including a call controller having control modules, a plurality of media gateways, an ingress channel, an egress channel and a core packet network, the method comprising:
 - receiving a call having call content, originating information, and terminating information on the ingress channel;
 - establishing an originating half call context for the call based on the originating information;
 - controlling the originating half call context for the call by a first control module of the call controller;
 - instructing a second control module of the call controller to establish a terminating half call context for the call;
 - establishing the terminating half call context for the call based on the terminating information;
 - controlling the terminating half call context for the call by the second module;
 - transmitting the call content from the originating context to the terminating context based on the controlling of each call context by the first and second control modules; and,
 - transmitting the call content out of the system on the egress channel.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the establishing of the originating half call context includes establishing the originating half call context within a media gateway.
3. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the establishing of the terminating half call context includes establishing the terminating half call context within a media gateway.
4. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the call content on the ingress channel is in one of time-division multiplexed (TDM) format and packet format.
5. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the call content on the egress channel is in one of time-division multiplexed (TDM) format and packet format.

6. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the call content is in packet format during the transmitting from the originating call context to the terminating call context.
7. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the originating half call context resides in a first media gateway and the terminating half call context resides in a second media gateway.
8. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the originating half call context resides in a media gateway and the terminating half call context resides in the same media gateway.
9. An apparatus for processing calls in a voice over packet system, the apparatus comprising:
 - means for receiving a call having call content;
 - means for establishing an originating half call context for the call;
 - means for controlling the originating half call context for the call;
 - means for establishing a terminating half call context for the call;
 - means for controlling the terminating half call context for the call;
 - means for transmitting the call content from the originating half call context to the terminating half call context based on the means for controlling;
 - and,
 - means for transmitting the call content out of the system on the egress channel.
10. The apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein means for establishing an originating half call context is a media gateway.
11. The apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein the means for controlling the originating half call context is the call controller.
12. The apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein the means for establishing the terminating half call context is a media gateway.
13. The apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein the originating half call context resides in a media gateway.

14. The apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein the terminating half call context resides in a media gateway.
15. The apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein the means for transmitting the call content from the originating context to the terminating context is a media gateway.
16. The apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein the means for transmitting the call content out of the system is a media gateway.
17. The apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein the originating half call context resides in a first media gateway and the terminating half call context resides in a second media gateway.
18. The apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein the originating half call context resides in a media gateway and the terminating half call context resides in the same media gateway.
19. The apparatus as set forth in claim 9 further comprising additional call contexts to allow for monitoring of the call.